Pen & Ink Comics

USA $2.00 (CANADA $2.50)

Wandering Star

BOOK TWO of TWELVE

WANDERING STAR created by Teri S. Wood

Howdy, boys and girls! Welcome to another issue of **Wandering Star!** As I write this, book one has just started hitting the comic shops. Yeaaaaa! On top of that, I received my very first letter, from Ross Berger, stating that, yes, he did go into his local comics shop and bribe the owner, with a kit kat candy bar, to get the next issue of **Wandering Star!** Bravo, Ross! Give that man a book one limited edition post card!

Now all I need is to hear from about 499 more people. If this works out, the Post Office is just going to hate me.

I got my copies a few weeks back, and I gotta tell you, it is a very strange and wonderful thing to hold in your hands a book you know you did everything on. I wasn't sure if I was going to like this writing and publishing thing. Up to now, I was quite content just to draw. But, you know, I kinda like knowing I can push the writer and publisher around. Yeah, when I say jump, they jump. Yes, I am Master of all I survey. Hehehhehehhhheeeeee!

Seriously though, it has made me do some thinking about writers and artists and things. I have a little more sympathy now for the writers. Here they create something, pull this child from their very soul and then they have to hand it to some artist to raise to adulthood. That can't be easy. I don't know how I'd feel about another artist drawing a story I've written. I mean, the temptation to hang over the artist's shoulder and critique each line drawn must be great.

Nevertheless, as an artist, I still feel that if you trust this person enough to give them your story, gosh darn it, then trust them enough to draw it! Eeeeeyyyyaaaaaaaaahhhhhhh!!!!!

Whoops! Sorry.

Hmmmm. I should mention my distributors. I owe them a great debt. For without them **Wandering Star** wouldn't be in ANY store!

Wandering Star is distributed by the following companies:

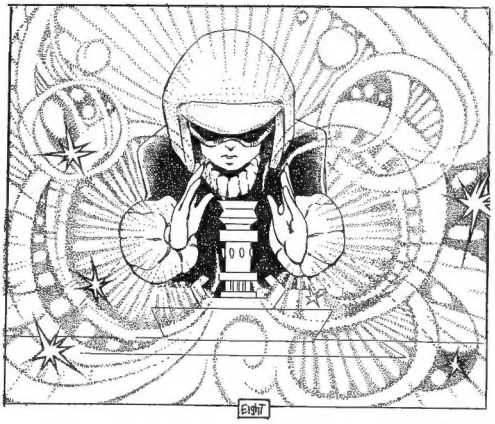
Diamond Comic Distributors, Inc.; Capital City Distribution, Inc.; Heroes World Distribution Company; Styx International; Friendly Franks Distribution; and last but not least, **Multi-Book & Periodical Inc.!**

Lah, lah, lah, lah, laaahhhh! Anyway, I should probably exit left and let you all get to your reading and stuff. I hope you'll enjoy book two and thank you for your support! See you in September!

Teri S. Wood

P.S. If you would like to have a letters page, well then, kiddies, start pouring in those letters! Write to: Pen & Ink Comics, c/o Wandering Thoughts, P.O. Box 549, El Centro, CA 92244-549! Thanks again!

P.S.II Oh, I am in the process of trying to get a table in the Small Press area at the San Diego Comic Book Convention. If it works out, drop by and say "hello!"

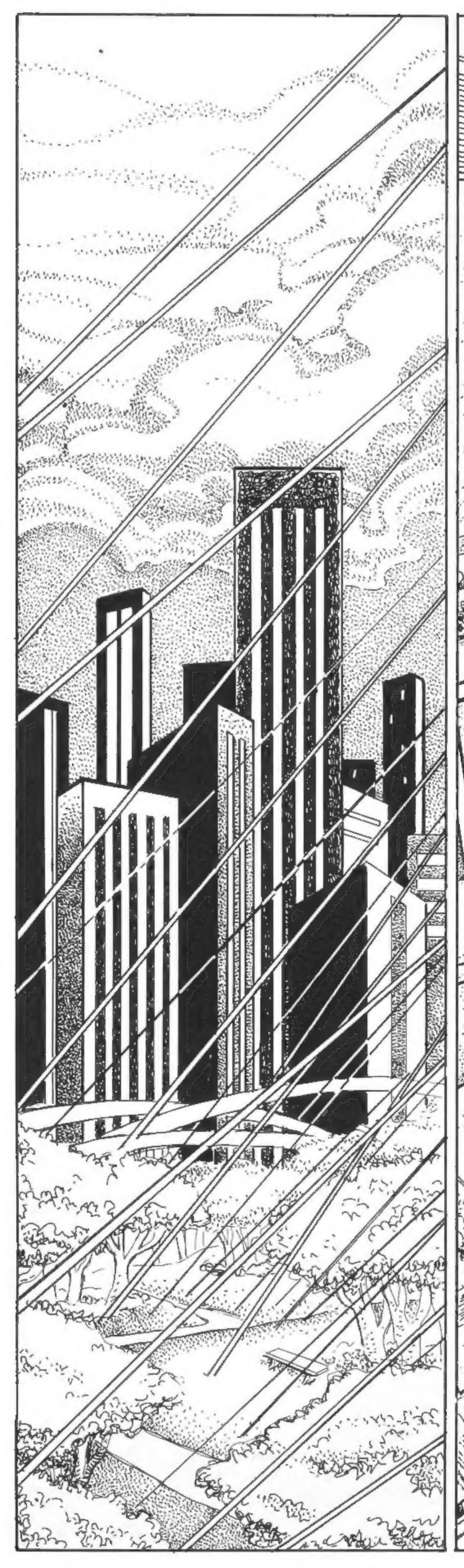


ART FROM BOOK NUMBER THREE.

WANDERING STAR, BOOK TWO. Entire contents (c) copyright July 1993 Teri S. Wood. All rights reserved. No material may be copied or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without the written consent of the creator, except for review purposes. Any similarity between any of the names or characters in this publication and any existing persons is not intended and purely coincidental. Published bimonthly by PEN & INK COMICS, P.O. Box 549, El Centro, CA 92244-549

PRINTED BY
BRENNER PRINTING COMPANY

SECOND PRINTING May 1994



THERE YOU GO, ALDAR.
HOT CHOCOLATE AND A ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD.
MORE COMFORTABLE?
YES, MUCH.
THANK YOU.
MACHAVIAN LIFE
BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE
AMAZING
ONE

YOU SAID THIS WAS...?
HOT CHOCOLATE. IT'S AN EARTH DRINK.
DON'T WORRY.
IT'S SAFE FOR MACHANIANS.
MMM.
STRANGE.
INTERESTING FLAVOR, THOUGH.
YES.
DOESN'T TASTE QUITE LIKE I REMEMBER, BUT IT'S PRETTY CLOSE.
I USED TO LOVE HOT CHOCOLATE. HOT CHOCOLATE AND TOAST COULD GET ME THROUGH THE WORST DAYS.
NOW, WHERE WERE WE?
UM... YOU WERE ON YOUR WAY TO THE ACADEMY.
MOOF..?
YES.
THE ACADEMY.

SO, WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE ACADEMY WHEN YOU FIRST SAW IT?
HMPH.
IT WAS LIKE STEPPING OFF REALITY INTO SOME SORT OF FANTASY LAND. EVERYTHING SEEMED SO UNREAL. THE COLORS OF THE LANDSCAPE. TECHNOLOGICAL WONDERS EVERYWHERE.
EARTH REALLY WAS QUITE PRIMITIVE IN 2192.
BUT THE THING THAT STOPPED ME WAS THE PEOPLE.
NOW, IT WASN'T AS IF I'D NEVER SEEN AN OTHER-WORLDER. EARTH NEWS CONSTANTLY BUZZED WITH TIDBITS ABOUT THE GALACTIC ALLIANCE AND IT'S PEOPLES.
BUT NOTHING HAD PREPARED ME FOR THE WONDROUS VARIETY OF LIFE I NOW SAW ABOUT ME.
ZYACT!
WHAT?
ER.
UH.
SORRY!
ZERGLE TE TAG TOOSHROGA!
UH,
YEAH.
SURE.
WHATEVER YOU SAY.

"SO."
"THIS IS THE ACADEMY." I THOUGHT.
AND I HEFTED MY BAGS...
...AND HEADED OFF TO FIND THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.
I WONDERED WHAT IT MUST BE LIKE TO FEEL AT HOME HERE.
TO FIT INTO THIS STRANGE AND WONDROUS PLACE.
OF COURSE...
...I HADN'T MET MEK YET.

HEY,
EARTHER!
WELL, WELL, WELL! WHAT DO YOU KNOW, LINDI? YOU WERE RIGHT. IT IS AN EARTHER.
MY, WHAT AN UGLY CREATURE.
SO, THE COUNCIL OF PLANETS FINALLY AGREED TO LET EARTH'S PRESIDENT SEND HIS CHILD TO OUR ACADEMY, EH?
SHAME.
THEY MUST THINK EARTH'S EXPOSURE TO OUR GALACTIC ALLIANCE HAS DOMESTICATED YOUR PEOPLE ENOUGH TO MAKE IT SAFE TO START SLOWLY MIXING YOU INTO OUR POPULACE.
WARLIKE BARBARIANS.
HMM.
WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT EVEN THE COUNCIL OF PLANETS ISN'T ALWAYS PERFECT.
SO, EARTHER,
...HERE YOU ARE.
WHAT CAN I SAY?
WELCOME TO THE ACADEMY.
HEH.
THEN, HE LEFT.

MEKON.
MEKON DZN APPOGAND.
OH, YEAH. MEKON DZN APPOGAND.
HERO FOR THE RIGHTS OF EARTH PEOPLE EVERYWHERE.
CARPE DIEM
WELL, YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER, ALDAR, IT WAS A DIFFERENT TIME. AND MEKON WAS QUITE YOUNG.
IT WAS VERY ACCEPTABLE TO DESPISE HUMANS BACK THEN.
HECK, YOU'D PROBABLY RAISE MORE EYEBROWS IF YOU SAID THAT YOU DIDN'T!
AND, IN TRUTH...
...LOOKING BACK, MEK WAS FAR MORE PREFERABLE TO EVERYONE ELSE I ENCOUNTERED AT THE ACADEMY.
AT LEAST MEK WAS HONEST ABOUT HIS FEELINGS.
WITH THE OTHERS...
WELL, LET'S JUST SAY I WAS THE AMAZING INVISIBLE GIRL.
WHEN I WALKED INTO A ROOM I WAS NEITHER SEEN OR HEARD.
AT LEAST UNTIL THEY THOUGHT I WAS OUT OF EARSHOT.
YOU CAN'T IMAGINE HOW THAT MAKES YOU FEEL.
IT DEVALUES YOUR WHOLE SENSE OF SELF.

THEN MEK WOULD COME AND SAVE THE DAY.
HAPPILY REPLACING ALL MY FEELINGS OF INFERIORITY WITH PURE, UNDISTILLED ANGER.
AND, THAT ANGER IS PROBABLY WHAT KEPT THE ACADEMY FROM DESTROYING ME THOSE FIRST FEW MONTHS.
IT EMPOWERED ME WITH THE WILL TO SURVIVE.
SO, IN A ODD SORT OF WAY, I OWE A LOT TO THAT OLD MEKON.
OOPS.
OF COURSE, YOU COULD HAVE NEVER CONVINCED ME OF THAT AT THE TIME.
I JUST WANTED TO KILL HIM.
AND, OF COURSE, THAT'S WHAT THEY EXPECTED.
AND I WASN'T ABOUT TO JUSTIFY THAT EARTH STEREOTYPE.
I WAS GOING TO HANDLE THIS IN A CIVILIZED MANNER.
SO, WHAT DID YOU DO?

I WENT TO THE STUDENT COUNSELOR AND TOLD HIM WHAT HAD BEEN HAPPENING.
HE LISTENED
THEN, CALLED IN MEK AND RELATED MY STORY TO HIM.
I REMEMBER BEING SURPRISED AT HOW CALMLY MEKON WAS TAKING ALL OF THIS.
SO, MEKON, HAVE YOU ANYTHING TO SAY?
I'M NOT SURE, SIR.
ALL OF THIS SURPRISES ME A GREAT DEAL.
WHAT?!
BUT, I GUESS, IT MUST BE A BIT CONFUSING, COMING FROM AS DIFFERENT A CULTURE AS EARTH.
BUT, SHE'S TWISTED EVERYTHING.
I NEVER INTENDED ANYTHING BUT TO EXTEND FRIENDSHIP AND WELCOME. ONLY, SHE'S TAKEN IT ALL THE WRONG WAY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, SIR.
WHAT?!!
YOU!
YOU!
YOU!
I OUGHTA POP YOU ONE RIGHT HERE!
AND, SHE'S SO HOSTILE!
SHUT UP!

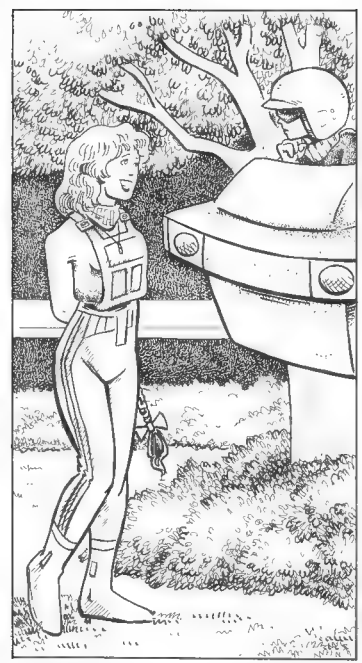
Um
Um Hmm.
WAIT A MINUTE! YOU DON'T BELIEVE HIM, DO YOU? HE'S LYING!
It's...
It's...
It's...
I...
CASANDRA!
CALM YOURSELF!
NOW, I REALIZE HOW DIFFICULT IT MUST BE, TO BE SO FAR FROM HOME, SURROUNDED BY THE UNFAMILIAR. BUT, IF YOU ARE TO GET ALONG HERE, THEN YOU MUST ADAPT. YOU HAVE NO ENEMIES HERE!
BUT...
I BELIEVE WE ARE FINISHED HERE. GOOD-BYE.
CASANDRA?
FRIENDS?
I WAS SO ANGRY, SPARKS HAD TO BE SHOOTING OUT OF THE TOP OF MY HEAD!
MEK WAS PRETTY SMOOTH. EVEN BACK THEN.
THINGS WERE PRETTY QUIET FOR ABOUT A WEEK.
I DID MY DAMNEDEST TO AVOID MEK AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY.
BUT, IT REALLY WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE CAUGHT UP WITH ME. AND, I KNEW, THERE WAS NO WAY I WASN'T GOING TO GET HASSLED ABOUT THE COUNSELOR THING.
ESPECIALLY SEEING THAT HE HAD WON.

HEY! EARTHER!
WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO DO, EARTHER?
GET MY BROTHER IN TROUBLE?
HUH?
DON'T TOUCH ME!
WATCH HOW YOU TALK TO MY SISTER, EARTHER!
WAP!

I HAD ACTED BEFORE I COULD THINK.
I...
...THINK...
...IT'S TIME WE TAUGHT YOU SOME MANNERS, EARTHER.
"SUDDENLY..."
"...OUT OF NOWHERE, CAME BRIGHT LIGHTS AND THE SOUNDS OF A HORN BLASTING! AND..! OH, HOW CAN I EXPLAIN IT?"
"YOU HAVE SEEN A HORROR MOVIE, HAVEN'T YOU, ALDAR? WITH THOSE PARTS WHERE... WHERE SOME INNOCENT SCENE BECAME SINISTER BY THE SPOOKY MUSIC IN THE BACKGROUND?"
"WELL, IT WAS LIKE THAT."
"LIKE THERE WAS SOME HORRIFYING MUSIC PLAYING, THAT WE COULD ONLY HEAR SUBLIMINALLY."
"WE WERE TERRIFIED."
"TERRIFIED BY THIS..."
"...MONSTROUS THING APPROACHING US."
"MEK AND LINDI NEARLY TRAMPLED ME IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO FLEE."
"AND, SO, THERE I WAS."
"LEFT TO FACE THE UNKNOWN."

KaCLICKK!
YOU ARE ALL RIGHT, AREN'T YOU?
uh...
...yeah.
I THOUGHT SO.
YOU HAD BETTER GET GOING, JUST IN CASE THEY DECIDE TO COME BACK
GOOD-BYE.
WAIT!
WHO ARE YOU?!
...
MADISON.
THE PSYCHIC GUY?!!
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.

WAIT!
WHAT DID YOU DO BACK THERE?
I MEAN, YOU SCARED US HALF TO DEATH.
LOOK.
I JUST GOT YOU OUT OF A MESS.
I DON'T SEE HOW I OWE YOU AN EXPLANATION TO BOOT.
HEY, I'M SORRY!
I SHOULDA SAID "THANK YOU."
I DIDN'T MEAN TO BE PUSHY.
IT'S JUST THAT I'M...
"PUSHY?"
UH...
I WAS GOING TO SAY, "CURIOUS."
BUT, LOOK, I AM SORRY. I REALLY DON'T WANT TO ALIENATE YOU.
I MEAN, YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON I'VE MET AROUND HERE THAT WOULDN'T LIKE TO SEE ME BEATEN TO A BLOODY PULP.
I JUST DON'T LIKE VIOLENCE ON AN EMPTY STOMACH.
GREAT!
I'LL BUY YOU LUNCH!
THEN WE'LL BE EVEN!



I'M NOT JUST GETTING MYSELF LUNCH.
ARE YOU GOING TO BUY LUNCH FOR MY ROOMMATE TOO?

Uh...
Yeah.
I GUESS.

WELL, I GUESS IF YOU'RE GOING TO BUY LUNCH...
...YOU CAN COME ALONG THEN.

Later...
SO... ...HOW'D YOU MANAGE THAT LITTLE TRICK WITH MEK AND LINDI?
I'M A PSYCHIC GUY, REMEMBER?

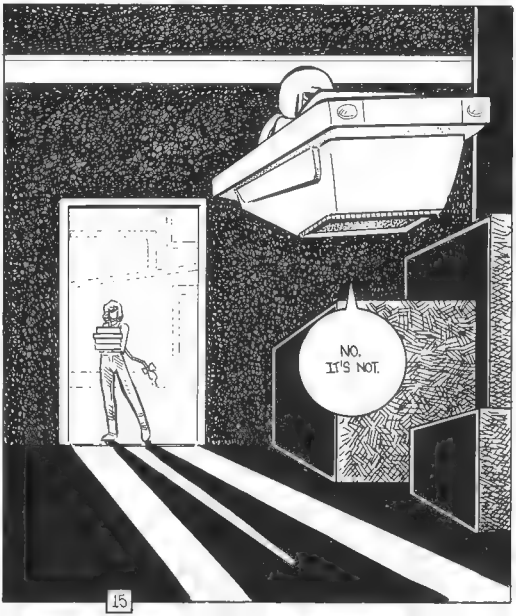
OH.

SO?
SIGH!

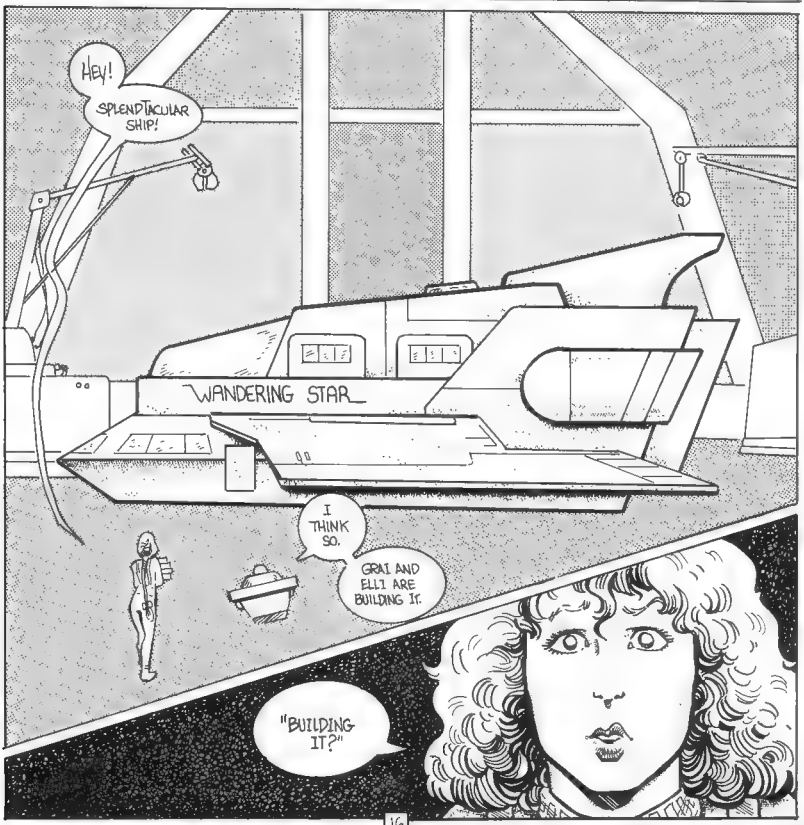
HOLD A MINUTE.
DOOR! IT'S MADISON! OPEN UP.
VOICE KEY VERIFIED. WELCOME, MADISON.

OKAY.
I'M EMPATHIC. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?
NO.
WELL, IT MEANS I CAN SENSE ANOTHER BEING'S EMOTIONS.

ONLY....
ONLY, IN MY CASE, I CAN AFFECT ANOTHER'S EMOTIONS AS WELL..
REALLY?
WONDER-FUN!
IT MUST BE GREAT BEING A PSYCHIC!


NO. IT'S NOT.

HOLY CATS. WHAT A PLACE.
WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?
I STAY HERE.
GRAIKOR AND ELLI HAVE THEIR LAB SET UP HERE.


HEY!
SPLENDTACULAR SHIP!
WANDERING STAR
I THINK SO.
GRAI AND ELLI ARE BUILDING IT.
"BUILDING IT?"

MOMENTS LATER, ON THE SHIP...

JUST PUT THE TRAYS OVER THERE.

IT WON'T WORK

YES, IT WILL.

ELLI, YOU CAN'T DO THAT.

YOU DO THAT AND YOU'RE GOING TO BLOW THE WHOLE TRAXILIEN DRIVE.

IT WON'T WORK.

IT'LL WORK.

I AM THE COMPUTER!

I SHOULD KNOW.

ELLI...

...THAT FLUCTUATION PATTERN IN THE DWY WAVE...

...IT WON'T WORK.

YES, IT WILL.

ELLLIIIII...

MY GOD!

I KNEW THE GALACTIC ALLIANCE WAS ADVANCED...

...BUT THIS?!!

HELLO?

UM, MADISON? WHO'S THAT?

JUST SOME HUMAN.

FOLLOWED ME HOME.

CAN I KEEP HER?

THAT'S PRETTY GOOD, MADISON.
MMM.
THIS IS SO AMAZING.
A SENTIENT COMPUTER!
I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT IT WAS POSSIBLE.
IT ISN'T.
THAT'S JUST ELLI.
SHE'S IN THE COMPUTER.
BUT, SHE'S NOT THE COMPUTER.
TECHNICALLY, I AM.
ELLI! YOU'RE GOING TO CONFUSE HER.
COME ON OUT HERE A MINUTE, PLEASE.

ELLI'S A TRILLIAN. AN ENERGY BEING.
SHE CAN ENTER THE SHIP'S COMPUTER AND USE AS IF IT WAS HER TRUE BODY...

...BUT, SHE'S NOT THE COMPUTER.
YOU CAN GO BACK INSIDE NOW, ELLI.

WONDERS NEVER CEASE.

HI, ELLI. MY NAME'S CASANDRA ANDRENS.
PLEASENT MEETING YOU.

AND, I'M GRAIKOR.
HI'YA. YOU AND ELLI ARE BUILDING THIS SHIP?
YES.
WHAT IS THIS? SOME SORT OF GRAD SCHOOL PROJECT?

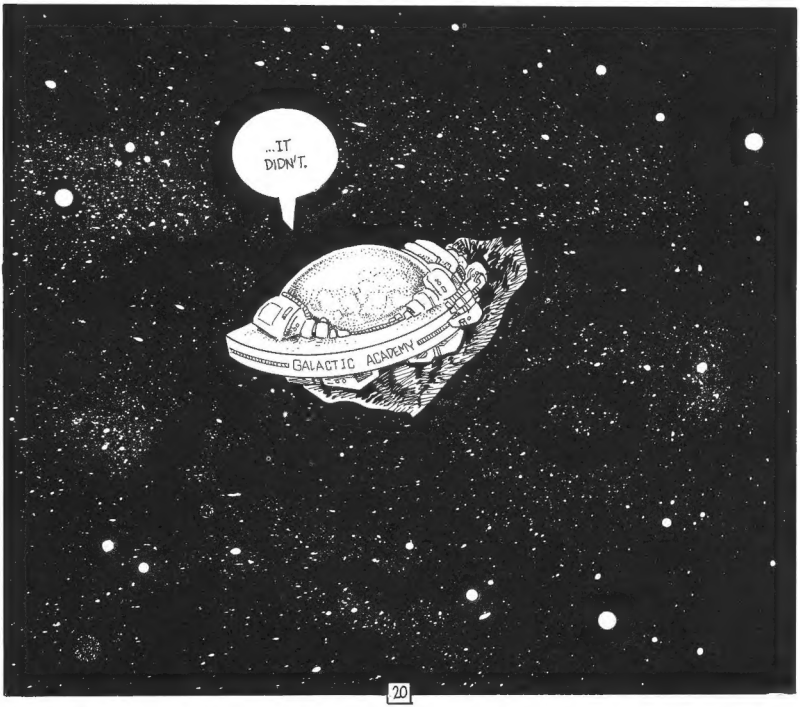
NO.
NOT EXACTLY.
I'M AFRAID I'M JUST A WEE BIT TOO OLD FOR THE ACADEMY.

ACTUALLY, WE'RE ON A GRANT FROM THE ALLIANCE.
WE BUILD THEM THINGS.
THIS SHIP IS OUR LATEST PROJECT.

SO, MADISON. I'M STARVING.
WHAT DID YOU GET FOR US TO EAT?

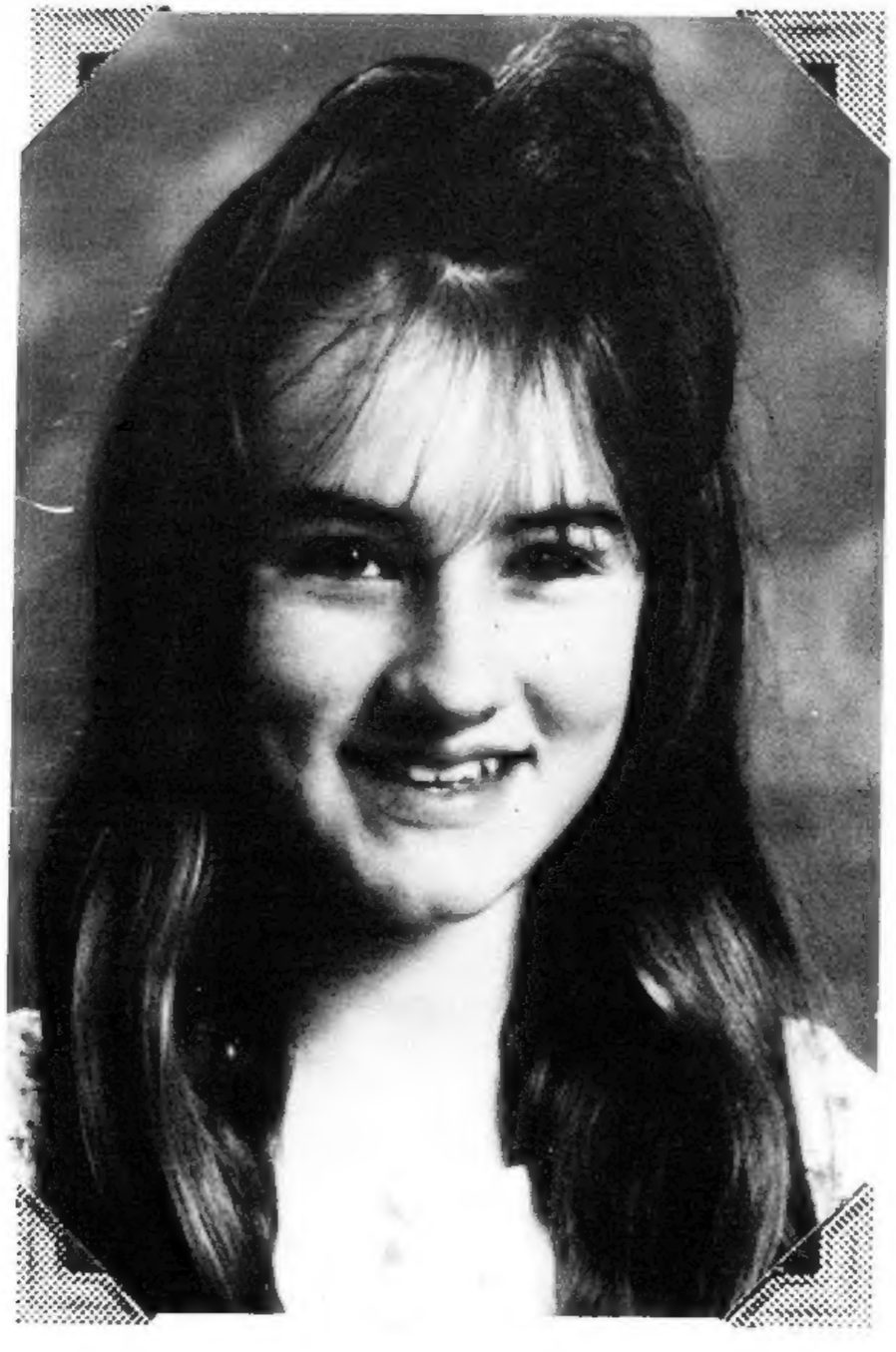
SHA? PASK!
MADISON!
THIS IS TREIKAS!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU BOUGHT ME TREIKAS!
I NEVER GET TREIKAS, UNLESS IT'S A SPECIAL OCCASION!
THIS HAD TO HAVE COST YOU SOME SERIOUS CREDIT!
Cough!
ACTUALLY, NO...


...IT DIDN'T.
GALACTIC ACADEMY

Missing Children HELP Center

410 Ware Boulevard, Suite 400 • Tampa, Florida 33619 • (813) 623-KIDS • 1-800-USA-KIDS (Nationwide)



NAME: CAROLINE ELIZABETH EARLY
D.O.B.: February 3, 1979
HEIGHT: 5'6" - 5'7" WEIGHT: 120#
I.D. MARKS: Tattoo on one shoulder.

EYE COLOR: Blue HAIR: Light Brown/Mid-back in Length
DATE MISSING: December 8, 1992
MISSING FROM: Corona Del Mar, California
REPORT TYPE: Missing Juvenile
L.E.A.: Newport Beach Police Department
Newport Beach, CA PHONE: (714)644-3776

DETAILS OF DISAPPEARANCE: Caroline left her home on 12/8/92 and has not been seen since that time. It is possible she may be in the Los Angeles, California area. Any person having any information regarding the disappearance of Caroline Elizabeth Early, or knowledge of her possible whereabouts, is asked to PLEASE contact the Newport Beach Police Department, Newport Beach, California, or the Missing Children ...HELP Center.

NCIC #M-609923377

Missing Children HELP Center

410 Ware Boulevard, Suite 400 • Tampa, Florida 33619 • (813) 623-KIDS • 1-800-USA-KIDS (Nationwide)

NAME: CHRISTINA SUE FORTE - "CHRISTA"

D.O.B.: July 29, 1978

HEIGHT: 5'5" WEIGHT: 115#

I.D. MARKS: Double pierced ears; beauty mark on right cheek; mole on bottom of left side of neck, braces (may have removed them since her disappearance).

EYE COLOR: Hazel HAIR: Blond/Straight

DATE MISSING: August 15, 1992

MISSING FROM: Fairfield, California

REPORT TYPE: Missing Juvenile

L.E.A.: Fairfield Police Department
Fairfield, CA PHONE: (707)428-7347

DETAILS OF DISAPPEARANCE: After "Christa" left her home, she was seen in the Fairfield area on occasion, until November, 1992. However, no-one has seen or heard from her since then. She may be wearing stone-washed jeans, black sneakers and a stone-washed denim jacket. Any person having any information regarding the disappearance of Christina Sue Forte, or knowledge of her possible whereabouts, is asked to PLEASE contact the Fairfield Police Department, Fairfield, California, or the Missing Children...HELP Center.

NCIC #M-590563068